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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/711,143	WATSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Phallaka Kik	2825	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment and drawings filed on 10/2/2006 and interview conducted on 10/6/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20,24, wherein claims 21-23 have been cancelled and claims 24,12-20 have been renumbered as 12-21 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

- Attachment(s)**
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>20061006</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action responds to Applicant's amendment and drawings filed on 10/2/2006 and interview conducted on 10/6/2006. Claims 1-24 are pending, wherein claims 1,5-7,9,12-20,22 have been amended, wherein claim 24 have been newly added and claims 21-23 were previously withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected invention without traverse. Claims 1-20,24 have been examined and are allowed, wherein claims 12,21-23 are subjected to the following Examiner's Amendment.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 10/2/2006. These drawings are approved by the Examiner.

3. The drawings filed on 8/27/2004 and 10/2/2006 are acceptable subject to correction of the informalities indicated on the attached "Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review," PTO-948. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required in reply to the Office action. The correction will not be held in abeyance.

Election/Restrictions

4. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 21-23 directed to invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 21-23 been cancelled, as given the Examiner's Amendment below.

5. Applicant is again reminded that due to the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR

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1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

6. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment to claim 12 was given in a telephone interview with Ruth E. Tyler-Cross (Reg. No. 45,922) on 10/6/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

As per **claim 12**, "aid" (line 13) has been replaced with --said--;
"pont" (line 13) has been replaced with --point--;
"." (period) (line 18) has been replaced with --;-- (semicolon);
--(e) determining latchup or noise or defect in said semiconductor chip design based on results of said evaluating step.-- has been inserted on separate line after last line.

As per **claims 21-23**, the claims have been cancelled as being directed to non-elected invention without traverse as noted above.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. **Claims 1-20,24** are allowed.

8. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per **claims 1-20,24**, Applicant's amendment and arguments filed on 10/2/2006 set forth the patentability of Applicant's claimed invention, wherein as pointed out by Applicant, the prior arts made of record failed to teach or suggest the inventive steps of determining latchup or noise or defect in the semiconductor chip design based on results of the evaluating step as claimed (see Applicant's amendment filed on 10/2/2006, pages 10-13). Furthermore Examiner's Amendment removes the noted informalities due to spelling errors and overcomes the 101 rejection as applicable to claims 12-20. Accordingly, the claimed invention is novel and un-obvious over the prior arts made of record.

Conclusion

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phallaka Kik whose telephone number is 571-272-1895. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8AM-5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on 571-272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P. O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to:

571-273-8300



Phallaka Kik
Primary Examiner
October 6, 2006